

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TITLE: CARGO DECK FOR RECEIVING A LOAD IN THE CARGO
COMPARTMENT OF AN AIRCRAFT

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck for receiving a load in a cargo compartment ~~(9)~~ of an aircraft, comprising
 - a plurality of ~~ball mats (21), floor panels (22) or similar~~ flat floor elements,
 - a plurality of functional units for moving and fixing said load to the cargo deck,
 - a plurality of ~~roller conveyors or similar~~ profile elements ~~(23)~~ mounted in the long direction of the aircraft and ~~provided~~ adapted to accommodate ~~transport rollers (43), PDUs (42), latches (44) or similar~~ said functional units for moving and fixing the said load to the cargo deck,
 - ~~characterized in that~~
 - the at least sections of said flat floor elements (21, 22) at least in sections are being fixedly connected to said the profile elements ~~(23)~~ to form a deck sections ~~(20)~~ that each extends across the entire width of said the cargo compartment and that are each adapted (9), in such ~~a way~~ that longitudinal forces imposed on said the deck section ~~(20), in particular imposed by the load, and~~ oriented in a the direction parallel to the long axis of said an aircraft long axis and to acting as shear forces in a the surface direction of the cargo deck are, can be transmitted to outer edges of said the deck section ~~(20)~~

and ~~can be~~ dissipated from said the outer edges to an outer skin ~~(12)~~ of the aircraft.

2. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that the~~ said cargo deck is subdivided in the direction of its long axis into a plurality of several said deck sections ~~(20)~~, which are decoupled from one another with respect to said the longitudinal forces.
3. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, ~~wherein one of the preceding claims, characterized by~~ intermediate elements are provided ~~(50)~~, ~~which are~~ connected ~~on one hand~~ to said the outer edges of said the deck section ~~(20)~~ and ~~on the other hand~~ to said the outer skin ~~(12)~~ in order to transmit the longitudinal forces.
4. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to~~ Claim 3, comprising ribs and wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ said intermediate elements ~~(50)~~ are attached to said the outer skin ~~(12)~~ between said ribs ~~(11)~~.
5. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to~~ Claim 3, ~~characterized in that the~~ said intermediate elements ~~(50)~~ exhibit a stiffness that depends on the direction of a force applied thereto and are orientated, such that longitudinal forces are transmitted more strongly than forces in other directions.
6. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 3 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said the deck sections ~~(20)~~ comprise transverse beams ~~(30)~~ and ~~to~~ form modules that can support heavy loads, ~~characterized in that the~~ deck sections ~~(20)~~ are being attached to said the

intermediate elements ~~(50)~~ by way of ~~the~~ said transverse beams ~~(30)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 6, wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ longitudinal forces are ~~can be~~ dissipated to said ~~the~~ outer skin ~~(12)~~ by insertion of at least end sections of said transverse beams ~~(30)~~.
8. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 3, wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ intermediate elements ~~(50)~~ are connected to said deck sections attached in the region of end corners of said ~~the~~ deck sections ~~(20)~~ and are short in relation to an overall length of said ~~the~~ deck sections ~~(20)~~.
9. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to~~ Claim 8, wherein characterized in that at each deck section ~~(20)~~ two intermediate elements ~~(50)~~ are attached to said ~~the~~ end corners of an edge of said ~~the~~ deck section ~~(20)~~ that extends perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.
10. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ deck sections ~~(20)~~ comprise transverse beams ~~(30)~~ to and form modules that can support heavy loads.
11. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to~~ Claim 10, comprising ribs and wherein said ~~characterized in that the~~ transverse beams ~~(30)~~ comprise supporting feet ~~(31, 32)~~ for attachment to said ribs ~~(11)~~.
12. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to~~ Claim 10,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ each deck section ~~(20)~~ comprises a transverse beam ~~(30)~~, the ends of which are connected to the outer skin ~~(12)~~ for the transmission of longitudinal forces thereto.

13. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, comprising longitudinal beams and wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ deck sections ~~(20)~~ are attached at their side edges to said longitudinal beams ~~(35)~~ for dissipating in order to dissipate forces perpendicular to the long axis of the aircraft.
14. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to~~ Claim 13, wherein said aircraft comprises ribs and said ~~characterized in that the~~ longitudinal beams ~~(35)~~ are attached to said ribs ~~(11) of the aircraft~~.
15. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to~~ Claim 10, wherein said ~~characterized in that the~~ modules are ~~can be~~ attached within the aircraft by ~~means of~~ rapid-closure elements ~~(36, 36')~~.